

Message Text

PAGE 01 NATO 00650 071621Z

43

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NEA-11

NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 USIA-15 TRSE-00

SAM-01 SAJ-01 SS-20 NSC-10 OMB-01 ACDA-19 DRC-01 /134 W

----- 092974

R 071520Z FEB 74

FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECDEF WASHDC

SECSTATE WASHDC 3947

INFO DA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 0650

E.O. 11652: GDS, 28-2-80

TAGS:

SUBJECT: ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMON TACTICAL CONCEPTS

SECDEF FOR ODDR&E-TAC WARFARE (CAPT CARRIER). DA FOR DARD-PPI.

REF: NATO DOCUMENT MCM-9-74, DTD 24 JAN 74

REF DOCUMENT IS QUOTED IN ENTIRETY FOR INFORMATION AND ACTION AS
DEEMED NECESSARY. BEGIN QUOTE.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY GENERAL, NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY
ORGANIZATION.

SUBJECT: ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMON TACTICAL CONCEPTS

1. THE PROBLEM OF ESTABLISHING COMMON TACTICAL CONCEPTS ON A NATO
BASIS WAS FIRST RAISED BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL (SECGEN) IN 1962
AND WAS MORE RECENTLY RAISED BY THE DEFENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE
(DPC) IN IS SEMI-ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT ON AD 70 FOLLOW-UP
ACTIONS (REF DPC/D(72)12, PARA 77, 5 MAY 72).

2. THE MILITARY COMMITTEE (MC UNDERTOOK TO TAKE A FURTHER LOOK
AT THIS PROBLEM, A SOLUTION TO WHICH IS DESIRABLE BUT WHICH HAS
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 NATO 00650 071621Z

BEEN A SUBJECT OF DISCUSSION WITHIN NATO OVER THE PAST DECADE AND
OVER WHICH LITTLE OR NO PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE.

3. ONE OF THE MAIN PROBLEMS HAS BEEN AN INTERMINGLING OF REFER-

ENCES, IN THE MANY PAPERS WRITTEN OVER THE YEARS, TO TACTICAL CONCEPTS AND TACTICAL DOCTRINES. THE MC THEREFORE DECIDED THAT, WHILST THE TWO TERMS CANNOT BE TOATALLY SEPARATED, IT WAS NECESSARY FOR THE SAKE OF CLARITY TO DEVELOP SOME DEFINITIONS OF THESE TWO TERMS, IN THE CONTEXT OF THE SUBJECT OF THIS MCM. THEY ARE AS FOLLOWS:

A. TACTICAL CONCEPT. THE VISUALIZATION OF HOW THE LAND, SEA AND AIR BATTLE WILL BE FOUGHT IN THE LONGER TERM - FOR EXAMPLE IN THE 1980S AND BEYOND. TERMS SUCH AS CONCEPT OF OPERATION, OPERATIONAL CONCEPT, STAFF TARGET OR OBJECTIVE AND PHILOSOPHY ARE SOMETIMES USED IN THE SAME SENSE.

B. TACTICAL DOCTRINE. THIS IS OFTEN USED IN A VERY BROAD SENSE ALSO COVERING "CONCEPT". GENERALLY, HOWEVER, IT IS ACCEPTED TO DEFINE DOCTRINES AS AUTHORITATIVE PRINCIPLES LAID DOWN FOR THE UTILIZATION OF EXISTING MEANS. ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMON TACTICAL DOCTRINES AND PROCEDURES IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE MILITARY AGENCY FOR STANDARDIZATION AND THESE HAVE BEEN DEVELOPED TO A VARYING EXTENT FOR THE THREE SERVICES.

4. THE MOST IMPORTANT POINT TO NOTE IN THIS CONNECTION IS THAT TACTICAL DOCTRINES, AS GENERALLY UNDERSTOOD, ARE NORMALLY ASSOCIATED WITH A SHORTER TIME FRAME AND ARE RELATED TO FORCES AND EQUIPMENT THAT ARE CURRENTLY, OR LIKELY TO BE, AVAILABLE IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS WHEREAS TACTICAL CONCEPTS ARE RELATED FOR MORE TO THE FUTURE - THEY ARE OF A MORE PHILOSOPHICAL CHARACTER.

5. PROGRESS OVER THE ESTABLISHMENT OF TACTICAL DOCTRINES CONTINUES ALTHOUGH MUCH REMAINS TO BE DONE. IN PARTICULAR THE MILITARY AGENCY FOR STANDARDIZATION (MAS) HAS GONE SOME WAY TOWARDS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SUCH DOCTRINES FOR LAND, SEA AND AIR FORCES AND THE MILITARY AUTHORITIES WILL CONTINUE TO GIVE ALL POSSIBLE SUPPORT AS THESE STUDIES PROGRESS.

6. THE PROBLEMS IN DEVELOPING TACTICAL CONCEPTS, AS OPPOSED TO DOCTRINES, ON A NATO-WIDE BASIS, ARE HOWEVER IMMENSE. FACTORS SUCH

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 NATO 00650 071621Z

AS:

A. THE VAST DIFFERENCES IN GEOGRAPHY, TOPOGRAPHY AND CLIMATE BETWEEN NATIONS;

B. DIFFERENT NATIONAL BACKGROUNDS, COMPOSITION AND STRUCTURE OF FORCES;

C. DIFFERENT ECONOMIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESOURCES AND INTERESTS; AND

D. DIFFERENT NATIONAL SECURITY AND DEFENSE REQUIREMENTS, ALL, INEVITABLY, HAVE AN IMPORTANT BEARING ON THE FORMULATION OF COMMON

TACTICAL CONCEPTS WHETHER SUCH FACTORS BE STRICTLY MILITARY OR PARTLY POLITICAL MATTERS.

7. NEVERTHELESS THE MILITARY COMMITTEE CONSULTED NATIONAL AUTHORITIES AND THE MAJOR NATO COMMANDERS. THE CONSENSUS OF OPINION RECEIVED WAS THAT THE ABOVE PROBLEMS AND THE HISTORY OF FAILURE TO DATE MADE IT PROBABLE THAT, HOWEVER DESIRABLE, COMMON TACTICAL CONCEPTS WERE NOT PRACTICABLE ON A NATO-WIDE BASIS BUT THAT, SINCE EUROGROUP WAS CURRENTLY STUDYING THE WHOLE SCOPE OF THE PROBLEM OF TACTICAL CONCEPTS AND DOCTRINES IN ORDER TO TRY AND ESTABLISH THE BEST LINE FORWARD IN THE SEARCH FOR PROGRESS, IT WOULD BE WORTH AWAITING THEIR FIRST REPORT TO SEE IF ANY POSSIBILITY HAD BEEN OVERLOOKED AND SOME HOPE OF PRACTICABILITY REMAINED.

8. THIS REPORT WHEN RECEIVED FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE AD HOC WORKING PARTY ON EUROLONGTERM GAVE NO ENCOURAGEMENT; INDEED IT MADE IT CLEAR THAT, AS FAR AS COULD BE FORESEEN, IT WOULD NOT BE REALISTIC TO EXPECT THAT WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF EUROLONGTERM, COMMON TACTICAL CONCEPTS MIGHT BE DEVELOPED ON A EUROPEAN LET ALONE A NATO-WIDE BASIS. HOWEVER, A SECOND REPORT PREPARED FOR MINISTERS AND RECEIVED MORE RECENTLY OFFERS SOME HOPE THAT IT MIGHT PROVE POSSIBLE, ON A EUROPEAN BASIS, TO DEVELOP COMMON TACTICAL CONCEPTS OR SUB-CONCEPTS FOR SPECIFIC FIELDS.

9. RELUCTANTLY THEREFORE THE MILITARY COMMITTEE CONSIDERS IT RIGHT TO INFORM YOU OF ITS BELIEF THAT, AT PRESENT, THERE IS NO PRACTICAL PROSPECT OF COMMON TACTICAL CONCEPTS, ON A NATO BASIS, BEING ACHIEVED

.
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 NATO 00650 071621Z

10. ON A LESSER SCALE THAN NATO-WIDE HOWEVER, SOME PROGRESS IS BEING ACHIEVED OVER THE FORMULATION OF TACTICAL CONCEPTS. THE EUROGROUP STUDY IS AT AN EARLY STAGE

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 11 JUN 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 FEB 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974USNATO00650
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS, 28-2-80
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: USNATO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740270/dckcsaas.tel
Line Count: 143
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: n/a
Original Classification: STUDY
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: STUDY; CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: NATO DOCUMENT MCM-9-74, DTD 24 JAN 74
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags: ANOMALY
Review Date: 09 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 APR 2002 by kellew0>; APPROVED <27-Aug-2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> jms 19990813; <DBA CORRECTED> jms 19990818
Subject: ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMON TACTICAL CONCEPTS
TAGS: PFOR
To: SECDEF
STATE INFO DA
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005